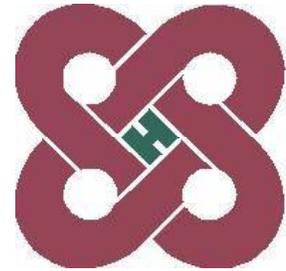


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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 2008**

### **Improved Community Services Goal of New Joint Venture Hay River Health & S.S. and Diamond Jenness S.S. Sign Partnership Agreement**

Hay River, NT – The South Slave Healthy Communities Partnership (SSHCP) is pleased to announce the signing of a new protocol and partnership agreement between the Hay River Health and Social Services Agency (HRHSSA) and Diamond Jenness Secondary School (DJSS). The protocol builds on the SSHCP's prior work to improve access to resources, streamline protocols and provide better services to the community and clients.

In the interests of contributing to a healthy community, DJSS and the HRHSSA will work together to: identify families and individuals who may require support; increase access to HRHSSA and community services; increase health promotion activities for youth; and establish positive communication channels that assist people in getting the care and support appropriate to their needs.

Mr. Greg Storey, principal of DJSS says he is pleased the partnership is taking shape and is confident it will improve education for Hay River high school students. Mr. Paul Rosebush, CEO of the HRHSSA indicates, "This move will strengthen working relationships between the partner organizations. It is a positive step forward for our clients and our community."

The four areas which will form the basis of this partnership include Community Counseling Services, Child Welfare (social work), Public Health and Education.

Beginning in February, DJSS will have two hours of on-site counseling services available per week, courtesy of HRHSSA staff. Also available will be Public Health briefings on topics such as alcohol and drug issues, sexually transmitted infections, teen parenting and healthy lifestyles. These briefings can be given to classes, teachers or larger school gatherings. When appropriate, the HRHSSA Public Health Nurse will set up on-site clinics to provide immunization and testing to DJSS students and staff.

Coinciding with the signing of the partnership agreement, Ms. Sheila Ryan-Hachey assumes the role of the newly created position of *Integrated Service Delivery Coordinator* based in Hay River effective February 4. She joins Margaret Bell, who has been working in this capacity in Fort Smith for the past several months. Monies for both positions were obtained through third-party funding.

Overseeing the *South Slave Healthy Communities Partnership* is a committee of CEOs from the following organizations: South Slave Divisional Education Council, Hay River Health & Social Services, Fort Smith Health & Social Services, ECE Career Centres and Aurora College.

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